Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07223 222313Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5339

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT'S JULY 22 ADDRESS: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

REF: CAIRO 7222 (NOTAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 07223 222313Z

1. HAVING JUST HEARD SADAT SPEECH TO ASU NATIONAL

CONGRESS (SUMMARIZED CAIRO 7222), FOLLOWING IS OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT.

- 2. DESPITE ADVANCE PRESS BILLING THAT SPEECH WOULD BE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE AND SUGGESTIONS IN ALL PAPERS THAT IT WOULD BE HEAVILY WEIGHTED TOWARD FOREIGN POLICY, THIS DID NOT RPT NOT TURN OUT TO BE THE CASE. WHATEVER SADAT AND HIS ADVISORS MAY INITIALLY HAVE CONTEMPLATED SAYING ABOUT EGYPT'S FOREIGN POLICY, LAST MINUTE DECISION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE, ON BASIS OC REPORTS RECEIVED FROM USG ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS, TO DROP INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AS MAJOR EMPHASIS. CONCEIVABLY, SADAT NEVER REALLY INTENDED TO MAKE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY REVELATION, BUT SIMPLY USED OCCASION OF SPEECH AS ANOTHER ACT OF BRINKSMANSHIP.
- 3. EMPHASIS OF SPEECH WAS ON HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION, MOVING FROM IMPERIALISM THROUGH AUTHORITARIANISM TO NEW ERA OF "FREEDOM AND JUSTICE." PARALLEL, THOUGH MINOR, THEME WAS DEVELOPMENT OF A LIBERALIZED EGYPTIAN ECONOMY FOR BENEIFT EGYTIAN PEOPLE AFTER THEIR MANY YEARS OF SACRIFICE. PRESIDENT PROJECTED IMAGE OF STRONG, INDEPENDENT EXECUTIVE DETERMINED TO MAKE HIS OWN DECISIONS.
- 4. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD, ZIONIST EXPANSIONISM PILLORIED AND ALLEGED EFFORT OF GOI TO TURN SINAI OCCUPATION INTO FAIT ACCOMPLI WAS EMPHASIZED. EGYPT WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS, PRESIDENT REITERATED. NOTHING SPECIFIC WAS SAID ABOUT CURRENT STATE NEGOTIATONS, THOUGH SADAT NOTED THAT IF PEACE IS IN NATIONAL INTEREST EGYPT WILL NEGOTIATE; IF WAR BEST SERVES HER INTERESTS, EGYPT WILL FIGHT. WE WANT TO STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT TONE WAS NEVER MILITANT OR BELLICOSE; EGYPTAIAN SABERS WERE NOT RATTLED.
- 5. MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY POINT WAS RECITAL OF CURRENT STATE OF UNEF MANDATE. SADAT RECALLED FAHMY'S NOTE RE NON-RENEWAL AND EMPHASIZED UNSC PRESIDENT'S APPEAL HAD BEEN RECEIVED TODAY. SADAT ANTI-CLIMACTICALLY ANNOUNCED HE WILL CONSULT WITH HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORS. BY THIS FORMULATION HE LEFT DOOR OPEN TO POSITIVE DECISION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 07223 222313Z

RENEW UNEF MANDATE.

6. APART FROM THIS, ONLY SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS LAUNCHED WERE IN DIRECTION OF TRIPOLI, THOUGH QADDHAFI NOT NAMED PERSONALLY. DOMESTIC CRITICS OF SADAT'S CREDENTIALS AS NASSER'S LEGITIMATE REVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSOR ALSO RECEIVED LAMBASTING. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC SPEECHES, SOVIETS WERE TREATED MILDLY, WITH MINOR REFERENCES TO NON

REPLACEMENT OF ARMS. SADAT OBVIOUSLY SEEKING STRIKE BALANCE OF EAST AND WEST AND THEREBY UNDERSCORE HIS NON-ALIGNMENT.

7. IN SHORT, THOUGH BILLED AS MAJOR ADDRESS, SADAT'S SPEECH PRODUCED NO REVELATIONS OR NEW POLICY LINES. IT WAS ESSENTIALLY JUSTIFICATION OF POLICY HE HAS PURSUED, ENABLING HIM KEEP ALL HIS OPTIONS OPEN. HE STRESSED POSITIVE ASPECTS HIS LIBERAL DOMESTIC REFEORMS, AND CLAIMED CREDIT FOR SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN POLICY. EILTS

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